



# HOME & GARDENS



## Shrubs Stand The Tests Of Time

Check any guide to landscaping in California and you'll find that certain shrubs are mentioned over and over again. You find them recommended for foundations, for borders, for patio plantings and, occasionally, for use in containers. These are bread and butter shrubs in the nursery trade, shrubs which have stood the test of time to gain their popularity.

One of the top members of this exclusive list is the Heavenly Bamboo, also called Sacred Bamboo in its native China. It is not a bamboo, but it looks enough like one to deserve the nickname. Heavenly Bamboo has the same feathery appearance as real bamboo, sending up canes from which a lacy foliage branches out.

As time passes, these clumps become overcrowded with canes, and the gardener should remove a few by cutting them off at the base to preserve the graceful look.

Heavenly Bamboo is primarily green in color, but its leaves are ever tinged with bronze and in fall they take on even brighter hues of bronze and red. Inland, this fall coloring is often intense, but even along the coast you get some lovely autumn displays from Heavenly Bamboo.

In spring, the Heavenly Bamboo produces large clusters of small white flowers which are followed by berries that turn bright red in fall.

In coastal gardens, temperatures are not always warm enough to insure good berry set, but inland, the berries are a big addition to the fall show.

Heavenly Bamboo grows to four or five feet in height and nurserymen reports that a dwarf variety is also available which stays only half that height. Try it in tubs for an attractive display, or use it wherever else in the garden you will. Another shrub which stands near the top of our "most widely used" list is Oregon Grape, one of several useful members of the Holly Grape family.

The Oregon Grape boasts glossy foliage which is not at all unlike the foliage of a holly or an oak. In spring it puts forth bright clusters of yellow bloom and these are followed by the blue-black "grapes" which give the family its common name.

The Oregon Grape is an ever-changing picture in the garden. In spring its new growth is a ruddy, bronze color and, of course, the spring bloom adds its splash of yellow. In summer, some of the mature leaves take on bright red coloring and as the berries mature, they become ever more a deep blue-black.

That, in fall, the red or coppery coloring becomes even more pronounced until you might think that here is a deciduous shrub which is coloring up before dropping its leaves. You'd be wrong to think it, though, for Oregon Grape is an evergreen, albeit a chameleon type of evergreen.

Third on our list is the Lily-of-the-Valley Shrub, a graceful, slightly drooping shrub of considerable merit. It is more widely used in northern than in southern California, but it will do well wherever you plant it if you give it plenty of peat moss and leaf mold in the soil.

Lily-of-the-Valley Shrub is worth any extra attention which might be needed at planting time. Its deep evergreen foliage and irregular patterns make it a shrub of distinction at any season, but in spring, when its myriad sprays of white or pinkish urn-shaped flowers are out, it is truly a thing of beauty.



LOOKING OVER THE PROGRESS OF construction on their new home, the family of Tom Spradling, of Torrance, is joined by Ruby Grieshaber, one of the Watt organization, who shows a personal interest in those who are buying the new homes in Palo del Armo, part of the \$30 million Marble Estate development south of Sepulveda Blvd.

## Standards of Excellence Hallmark All of Ray Watt Developments

One of the most important reasons the Spradlings are such great Watt booster is the personal make-up of the Ray Watt organization.

Salesmen and representatives of the R. A. Watt Construction Co. are not just hired hands selling a line of homes for quick commissions. They are well trained, dedicated craftsmen whose integrity and background are highly respected by the entire home building industry.

These men, in their various capacities, make up the Watt organization. They are friends and neighbors to the home buyer and often offer a helping hand in tailoring the financing for the new home seeker.

Each Ray Watt home is the composite result of many thousands of hours of research and highly specialized work by experts in land planning, engineering, architecture, construction, purchasing, accounting, advertising and sales.

Yet despite the importance of these efforts, a Ray Watt home can be measured best by the integrity, experience and background of the builder-developer.

These factors are measured by the thousands of satisfied home owners from Sacramento to San Juan Capistrano who attest to the quality of a Watt home.

In the Torrance area alone, Ray Watt has built more than 2000 homes since 1946. The Watt-built Sun Ray Estates have won every local, state and national housing award for which they were eligible.

This same careful attention to detail and quality is built into each home in the new Palo del Armo and Mesa Palos Verdes developments.

In honor of the many past contributions to the home building industry made by Ray Watt, he has been elected to the important position of 1963 president of the Home Builders Association of Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura Counties.

It takes a lot of features to make a house a home and Ray Watt's high standards of excellence have become the hallmark of a prestige home — developed with the family in mind.

## BLOOMING BEAUTIES . . . AZALEAS

Visit a spring garden show and ask the first ten people you see: "What are your favorite flowers in the show?" It's an odds on bet most of them will answer, "azaleas."

Azaleas and their cousins, rhododendrons, are undoubtedly the showiest of our spring blooming plants in California and we who live here are extremely fortunate to be able to grow them so easily. Except in the Deep South, there are no other states in the nation which can grow any and all of these lovely fixtures of spring.

To label them as favorites of spring is correct, but as gardeners in the milder sections of California know, some azaleas have been showing occasional color since last fall. These are primarily the Belgian Indicas, some of which their first blooms when summer is scarcely over. After a flush of color in October and November, they taper off with spotted blooms until spring, when they launch

into full bloom once again. The gardener can make his selection of these Belgian Indicas any time during late winter and early spring, for they are sure to be showing color in most California Nurseries showyards.

Some varieties that are typical of the breed are Blushing Bride, Albert and Elizabeth, Paul Schame, Sweet Sixteen, Dr. Bergman, and Rose Queen.

There are dozens of Belgian Indicas other than these, however, and the gardener should not shop for them with any fixed ideas. The above names will help you identify the type. Perhaps the "hottest" azaleas to hit the nursery trade in many a year are the Sun Azaleas, or Southern Indicas. These are mainstays in the southern states and make up major portions of the wonderful azalea gardens in Mobile, Charleston and other places there. Until recently however, they have not been widely distributed in California.

Their popularity started in Southern California, where they are better adapted to warm weather than some others, and it has slowly spread north where gardeners know a good thing when they saw it coming.

The Sun Azaleas are typified by named varieties Brilliant, Fielders White, George L. Taber, Phoenicia and Southern Charm. Here again, there are many others to choose from.

These azaleas earned their common name by a willingness to grow in full sun. Don't be afraid to give them some shade, however, for they love it. The only thing they really resent is reflected heat, so keep them away from south and west facing foundations and from other heat traps.

Third most popular azalea type is the Kurume azalea. These Japanese natives are typified by the varieties Coral Bells, Wards Ruby and Hexe. They are profuse in bloom and the flower size is smaller than on the indicas.

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### Back in Harness

Major league harness racing returns to Southern California March 13, when Western Harness Racing Assn. ups the curtain on its 20-day spring season at Santa Anita in Arcadia. Approximately \$450,000 in purses will be distributed during the four-week meeting.

### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Gardeners who grow tuberous begonias have two choices in planting, — now in flats of peat and leaf mold, or April on May to plant seedlings.

## Gardening Tips For March

Plant a vegetable garden this month. It will yield up a harvest all during the summer months.

Citrus fruits may be planted anytime from now through spring. Best plant them before the warmest weather arrives.

Use a broad-leaf killer on your grass lawn, then follow up in a week or ten days with a good feeding.

Ceanothus and other California natives are in bloom now. These make excellent easy-to-care-for shrubs in the garden.

Dahlias may be planted anytime from now through April.

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